

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please revise the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) A refractory composition comprising a colloidal silica binder and a first set of components, where the colloidal silica binder is in the range of about 5 wt % through about 20 wt % of the dry weight of the first set of components and where the refractory composition comprises about 65 to about 80 wt % alumina, about 7 to about 15 wt % zirconia, and about 10 to about 20 wt % silica.

2. (original) The refractory composition according to Claim 1, where the first set of components comprises about 50 to about 70 wt % alumina, about 10 to about 25 wt % zircon, and about 15 to about 35 wt % mullite.

3. (original) The refractory composition according to Claim 1, where the first set of components comprises about 55 to about 60 wt % alumina, about 15 to about 20 wt % zircon, and about 21 to about 27 wt % mullite

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The refractory composition according to Claim 1, where the colloidal silica binder is in the range of about 8 wt % through about 12 wt % of the dry weight of the first set of components.

6. (original) The refractory composition according to Claim 1, further comprising a setting agent.

7. (original) The refractory composition according to Claim 6, where the setting agent is magnesia.

8. (original) The refractory composition according to Claim 1, where the refractory composition is formed on at least one wear portion of a glass tank.

9. (cancelled)

10. (original) The refractory composition according to Claim 1, where the refractory composition comprises about 70 to about 75 wt % alumina, about 9 to about 13 wt % zirconia, and about 13 to about 17 wt % silica.

11. (original) A refractory composition for a glass melting furnace comprising about 70 to about 75 wt % alumina, about 9 to about 13 wt % zirconia, and about 13 to about 17 wt % silica, where at least part of the silica is provided by a colloidal silica binder.

12. (currently amended) A method of preparing a refractory for a glass melting furnace, comprising:

providing a refractory composition comprising a colloidal silica binder and a first set of components, wherein the first set of components comprises about 50 to about 70 wt % alumina, about 10 to about 25 wt % zircon, and about 15 to about 35 wt % mullite ~~alumina, zirconia, and silica~~; and

forming the refractory composition on the surface of the glass melting

furnace.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 ~~43~~ wherein the colloidal silica binder is in the range of about 5 wt % to about 20 wt % of the dry weight of the first set of components.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of mixing the first set of components with the colloidal silica binder.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 ~~43~~, wherein the refractory composition is formed by casting.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 ~~43~~, wherein the refractory composition is formed by pumping.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 ~~43~~, wherein the refractory composition is formed by shotcreting.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 ~~44~~ wherein the refractory composition further comprises a setting agent.

20. (currently amended) A method of preparing a refractory for a glass melting furnace, comprising:

~~providing a refractory composition comprising a silica binder; and a first~~

~~set of components, wherein the first set of components comprises about 50 to about 70 wt % alumina, about 10 to about 25 wt % zircon, and about 15 to about 35 wt % mullite; and~~

providing a first set of components comprising about 50 to about 70 wt % alumina, about 10 to about 25 wt % zircon, and about 15 to about 35 wt % mullite;

mixing the first set of components with the silica binder to form a refractory composition; and

forming the refractory composition on the surface of the glass melting furnace.

21. (currently amended) A method of preparing a refractory for a glass melting furnace, comprising:

providing a refractory composition comprising a silica binder and a first set of components, wherein the first set of components comprises about 50 to about 70 wt % alumina, about 10 to about 25 wt % zircon, and about 15 to about 35 wt % mullite ~~alumina, zirconia, and silica~~; and

forming the refractory composition on the surface of the glass melting furnace by a method selected from casting, pumping, and shotcreting.